(d) The steps taken by Government to encourage export of shellac include withdrawal of restrictions on export of seedlac, kirilac, molammalac etc., doing away with minimum export price stipulation, grant of CCS @ 5% on FOB value on export of dewaxed, decolourised shellac and REP @ 10% on FOB value on export of shellac.

Statement

Statewise Production of Sticklac in the country

(Qty. in Mts.)

State	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Bihar	10,310	12,355	7,75
Madhya Pradesh	4.965	5,155	5,170
West Bengal	2,070	1,800	1,070
Gujarat/Maharasthra	125	105	155
Uttar Pradesh	440	400	420
Orissa	—	—	40
Assam	—	—	—
Other States	265	525	170
TOTAL	18,175	20340	14,600

2 MTs of sticklac provide approximately 1 MT of exportable grades of lac, i.e. shellac, seedlac etc.

Quantum of shellac exported and foreign exchange earned

Year	Qty. in MTs	Foreign exchange earned in Rs. Lakh
1985-86	5,624	4,133
1986-87	6,866	2,577
1987-88	5,049	1,662

The major importing countries were West Germany, USA ARE, Indonesia, U.K., USSR, Italy, Singapore, Hongkong, Czechoslovakia etc.

Source:—Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.

Appointment in banks

1595. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons appointed in the nationalised banks during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of Muslims, Harijans and members of Scheduled Tribes appointed during the said period; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the adequate representation of Muslims, Harijans and mem-

bers of Scheduled Tribes for appointments in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) According to available information, 46245 persons were appointed in various cadres during the last 3 years in nationalised Banks. Of these, the number of Harijans (SCs) and STs was 10042 and 3154 respectively. Since recruitment in banks is not made on the basis of religion, the data relating to Muslims can not be given.

(c) Government have taken various steps for increasing the intake of candidates belonging to SC|ST as well as minority communities including Muslims in Banking services. These steps, *inter-alia*, provide for inclusion of members of minority communities/ SCs and STs in banks for sub-staff and with the Banking Service Recruitment Boards and organisation of pre-recruitment training for such candidates. Besides, relaxation of educational qualification, fixing of lower cut-off points, holding of separate interviews and exemption of payment of fees etc. are also allowed in the case of SC/ST candidates.

Expansion of trade with Arab and West Asian countries

1596. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to expand trade with Arab and West Asian Countries;

(b) whether any new areas have been identified for the expansion of India's trade with these countries; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c) There are good prospects for increased trade and commercial cooperation between India and countries in the West Asia and North Africa. In the areas of products exports specific possibilities have been identified for increasing exports of engineering goods, chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, textiles, spices, tea etc. In the areas of projects, possibilities are emerging for civil construction, infrastructure development, Industrial development, consultancy and operation and maintenance contracts. Steps taken to increase trade and commercial cooperation with the West Asian and North African countries include discussions at Government to Government level at the fora of Joint Commissions/ Committees, offers for commercial line of credit to countries like Iraq to facilitate export of specified goods, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, encouragement to Indian companies to establish direct contacts with their counter-part organisations in these countries etc.

Bomb blast incidents in the country

1597. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bomb blast incidents and sabotage activities in Delhi and other places in the country from January, 1988 till January, 1989 by the terrorists;

(b) the details of bomb blasts and sabotage activities and the extent of loss of human life and property caused by these blasts and sabotage activities; and

(c) the number of terrorists apprehended in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In respect of